

# MOBILE MARITIME COMMITTEE

## LUNCHEON / MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** April 17, 2000; 1130-1300

**LOCATION:** USCG Anchor & Shield Club

**Chair:** Jeff Mynatt (Strachan Shipping) **Vice-Chair:** CAPT Dave Carey (Harbormaster)

### AGENDA:

Lunch  
Organization review  
New member introductions  
Subcommittee reports

State Docks Port Day  
M/V Delta Mariner update  
ACOE issues  
Waterfront development

After lunch, LT Schultz of Marine Safety Office Mobile reviewed the Mobile Maritime Committee (MMC) current organization voted in at the last meeting on February 16, 2000. This included volunteer and election of a Chairman and Vice-chairman for the MMC, as well as the institution of several subcommittees (Theodore, Broadcasts to Mariners, & Vessel Priorities) with member volunteers.

### New Members:

- Andy Higbee of Allied Transportation, (757) 545-7301, the tow company transporting cumene in ocean going barges (12,500 tons, 80,000 barrels) from Corpus Christi, TX to Phenolchemie, Inc. in Theodore. Once the plant is fully operational, one cumene barge will arrive every 8 to 9 days;
- Randy McKee and Ron Ferguson of the National Weather Service(NWS), (334) 633-6443. For years, the NWS has been interested in participating and offering their assistance in any way to the maritime community. They indicated that their area of responsibility runs from the AL/MS state line to Destin, FL, and have taken over the responsibility of daily marine forecasts for 20-60 miles. NWS reported that the east end Dauphin island weather buoy is back on line. Capt Mareno of the Mobile Bar Pilots indicated an urgent need for real time information buoys at the sea buoy and the GICW. **Sounds like a subcommittee needed.**

### Subcommittee Reports

- **Broadcasts to Mariners:** CWO Steve Seymour of Coast Guard Group Mobile reported that he and Paul Hartman of Warrior and Gulf Navigation met to discuss what more can be done to get marine broadcasts out to tows on the rivers, other than the current operation of phoning/faxing information to the ACOE Locks or to Operations Managers and Dispatchers at each individual company. Existing towers (owned by other companies) for repeaters have been identified between Mobile and Birmingham (except in Demopolis). However, issues concerning space rental and access to any towers needs to be addressed, as well as radio technology and money issues within the means of the Coast Guard.

## Subcommittee Reports (continued)

- **Vessel Priorities:** Capt Wildon Mareno of the Mobile Bars Pilots did not have any formal vessel priority issues to report, but did indicate the importance of continuing the practice of having passing situations on the Mobile Ship Channel occur south of buoy 74. And for better tolerance when working with the pilot dispatchers, who are doing their best

Other members indicated the future need of vessel priority guidelines as import coal traffic increases at McDuffie Coal terminal, if cruise ships start to call on Mobile, and as the port grows and traffic increases. John Bernardo with the Port of Pascagoula (334) 666-4364 offered to provide a copy of their priority guidelines, as well as volunteering on the subcommittee. Dean White with Gulf Caribe Maritime indicated his involvement with a priority task force for Sabine Pass and the ICW, where the pilots became a clearing house to work out vessel traffic and the dispatcher runs the “unofficial vessel traffic system”. Dean White also offered to provide a copy of these guidelines.

- **Theodore:** John Chapman of Mobile Bay Woodchip Center and subcommittee vice-chairman reported displeasure with the proposed harbor fee increase for Theodore, indicating the inequity between the fees compared to Mobile. Theodore is requesting to consider making the harbor fee charge equal across the board, and the users in Theodore will convey this to the Alabama State Docks in writing individually. In addition, he proposed the MMC produce a similar letter collectively. Much discussion ensued on the need for the Port of Mobile to stay competitive with other ports and the need to standardize fees between Mobile and Theodore. Finally, the issue of the MMC drafting a letter came to a motion to do so. John Chapman made the motion, and Gary Stiegler of Stiegler Shipping Co., Inc. seconded the motion, leaving it to the MMC Chairman to draft the letter.

**Waterfront Development:** Although not on the original agenda, Capt Hal Pierce, Navy Port Coordinator, brought up the need for this committee to be aware of current waterfront development issues. Al St. Clair with the City of Mobile provided insight to three plans under development at this time, each of which the MMC would be allowed to review and provide comment: 1) interim cruise facility; 2) waterfront development plan (conceptual plan due beginning of May); and 3) permanent cruise terminal.

**ACOE Brief:** Capt Carey provided in absence of ACOE rep. Joint public notice is out for comment on a proposed barge fleeting area at mile 2 on the Mobile River (north side of Coastal facility). Anticipate new dredge for ship channel in mid to late May. Receiving bids for proposed dredging for Alabama and Tenn-Tom Rivers.

**M/V Delta Mariner Brief:** Dean White, now with Gulf Caribe Maritime, announced the following:

- Capt Bob Wells, introduced at the meeting, will be the skipper
- Crew being outfitted now
- Sea trials out of Moss Point, MS begin April 26
- Bridge simulator training first week in May
- One month sea/river trials begin May 15. Vessel in berth G in Pascagoula
- First run to Decatur, AL on June 15
- Deliver vessel to Boeing on July 1
- First trip moving rocket engines from Decatur to Canaveral, FL in September

**Port Day:** Port Day at the State Docks is on Saturday, May 20, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The Tall Sailing Ship Californian will be on hand as well. If you would like to display an exhibit or need more information contact Sarah Teague at 441-7003.

**Other Items:**

Develop estimate costs of closing the port for one day. This became an issue in the recent oil spill drill with USCG and Shell in the Mobile River.

Tall Sailing Ship Californian arriving May 18 or 19, will be in the ship channel for 5-6 hours.

I-10 bridge public hearing announced bridge vertical clearance would be 190 feet.

Proposed tariff increase for port entry fees

Port Authority System for the State Docks a future possibility.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2000 from 1000 to 1130 in the Killian Room at the International Trade Center.

This meeting was adjourned at 1345. Everyone's participation and patience was appreciated as the meeting went 45 minutes over.

The meeting minutes are also posted on MSO Mobile's web site at [www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile](http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile).

Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Jeff Mynatt at (334) 433-5401 or Capt Carey at (334) 441-7250.

As always, for any Coast Guard issues contact LT Rich Schultz or PO Wayne Williams at Marine Safety Office Mobile at (334) 441-5121.